



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

AMBER ALERT
How the System Works
February 6, 2003

Local and state law enforcement will collaborate on decisions to activate statewide AMBER Alerts. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation will evaluate a request based on whether the abduction involves a child or children 17 years of age or younger. Their evaluation will require confirmation by local law enforcement of a stranger or a family abduction in which the child is believed to be in grave danger of serious bodily harm or death.

The Highway Patrol will authorize activation of the AMBER Alert system. The alerts will include descriptions of the child, suspect and the suspect's vehicle, as well as a toll-free number to contact law enforcement with information that could be critical to the safe recovery of a kidnapped child.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) will be the primary mechanism for sending alerts. Secondary methods include e-mail and fax distribution to North Dakota's broadcasters, newspapers, wire services, cable stations and public transportation facilities.

State agencies will support activation of the system as follows:

- State Radio will activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS), notify law enforcement via teletype and alert adjoining jurisdictions.
- The N.D. Division of Emergency Management will support activation of state agencies and the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- BCI and the Highway Patrol officers will staff a statewide toll free tip line, if local law enforcement requests support.
- The N.D. Department of Transportation will activate its dynamic message sign system along the state's highway systems.
- The N.D. Aeronautics Commission will disseminate alerts to airports; and,
- The Information Technology Department will display AMBER Alert information on the state web page.

The plan includes provisions for a review process that includes local law enforcement, state agencies and the North Dakota Broadcasters Association.